Maryland State Occupational Health Indicators

▶ A pesticide is a substance or mixture of substances used to prevent or control undesired insects, plants, animals, or fungi. Although the value of pesticides in protecting the food supply and controlling disease vectors is well recognized, it is also recognized that pesticides can cause harm to people and the environment. Adverse health effects from exposure vary depending on the amount and route of exposure and the type of chemical used. Agricultural workers and pesticide applicators are at greatest risk for the more severe pesticide poisonings.

About this Indicator:
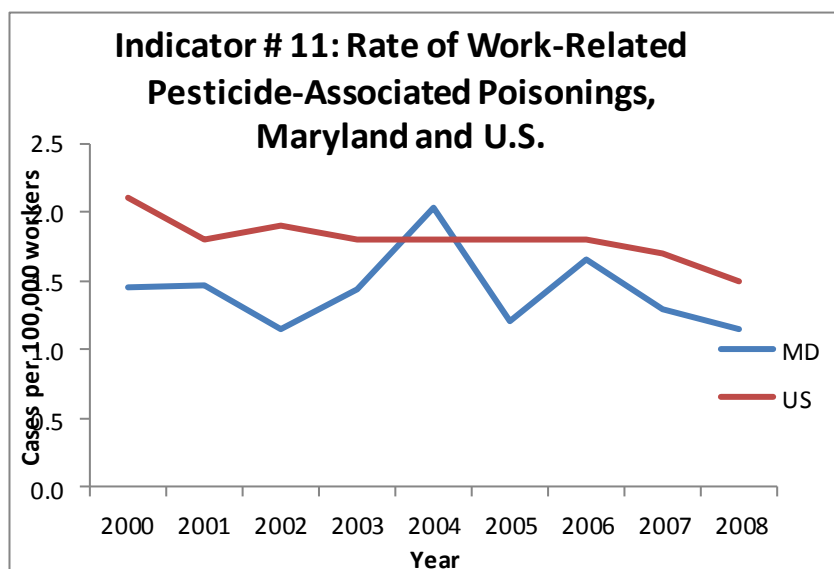
Why is this Indicator Important?

Tracking pesticide poisoning data can be useful in targeting prevention efforts.

Limitation of Indicator:

Poison Control Centers (PCC) capture only a small proportion of acute occupational pesticide-related illness cases, an estimated 10%. PCCs do not systematically collect information on industry and occupation.

For more information on this indicator or occupational health in Maryland, visit the DHMH website.

Indicator # 11: Rate of Work-Related Pesticide-Associated Poisonings, Maryland and U.S.

Indicator # 11: Acute Work Related Pesticide Associated Illness and Injury

Year	Number	Rate*
2000	39	1.45
2001	40	1.47
2002	32	1.15
2003	40	1.44
2004	56	2.03
2005	34	1.21
2006	48	1.66
2007	37	1.29
2008	33	1.15

* Cases per 100,000 workers

Data Source for this Indicator: American Association of Poison Control Centers (Numbers of pesticide-associated illness and injury); Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey (total number of employed persons)